(ii) Increase in the limit in respect of dividend income upto Rs. 2500 received from each company or a mutual fund for tax deduction at source for senior citizens and investors.

(iii) Life insurance premia to be totally exempt from serivce tax.

(iv) The Government propose to shortly offer a new scheme of tax-free bond with enhanced monetary ceiling which will have an interest rate of 7 per cent and a maturity period of 6 years.

Cadre restructuring of Directorates of Income tax

2143. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while restructuring the cadre of income-tax Department, the cadres of Directorates of Income-tax were not restructured;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal for restructuring the cadres of Directorates of Income-tax;

(d) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Priority was accorded in the restructuring exercise to those areas of work which contribute directly to increase in revenue realization.

A separate exercise for restructuring of the Directorates and their cadres is under way. It would not be practical to indicate a precise time-frame for its completion.

Excise duty on medicines

†2144. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal for heavy increase in excise duty on medicines is under Government's consideration;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Finance has sent any proposal in this regard to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the likely impact of price hike of medicine on the common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Action Against Plantation Companies

2145. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether SEBI has launched prosecution against eight plantation companies who failed to refund the amount despite directions of the market regulators;

(b) the reasons for taking action against only 8 companies;

(c) what are the names of the other comanies that owe money to the depositors;

(d) how much money they have collected during the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) by when are they expected to return the money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) have intimated that they have launched criminal prosecution against 132 entities running collective investment schemes, since these entities failed to wind up their schemes to repay their investors in accordance with the provisions of SEBI (Collective Investment Schemes) Regulations, 1999.

(c) The names of 515 erring CIS entities against which action has been taken by SEBI are provided in the Statement (*See* below).

(d) SEBI has received information from 660 entities which had reportedly mobilised about Rs. 2690 crore from investors. The year-wise break up of the amount mobilised is not available with SEBI.